

West Lafayette Beautification Award

October, 2011

David and Cornelia Petriz

2187 Tecumseh Park Lane

Although Dave and Cornelia Petriz have lived in their present home for eighteen years, maintenance did not change into management until two years ago. Prompted by retirement, they put the time and effort into recognizing issues and solving them. Large, mature trees and erosion on this ravine's edge lot posed a challenge in changing the character of the back yard. Professional help guided the removal of some trees, and much time was spent building French drains and constructing other systems of erosion control. Then the fun part began...selecting flowers, shrubs and small trees that do well in shade. Hundreds of hostas fill beds and line the walkways through this garden, with Cornelia finding new varieties and selecting the best places in the garden to fill in.

A collection of rocks from vacations in Michigan has inspired Dave to build water features and dry creeks which they enjoy from their patio, watching a wide variety of birds and wildlife. They acknowledge on-going problems involving ash trees, the emerald ash borer, and preparing new trees to grow into the shady environment... but solutions will be found so they can continue to appreciate their connection to nature and the outdoors.



